OIPE JC131
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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 10/681,570

Confirmation No.: 6819

Filed: October 8, 2003

For: TONG ASSEMBLY

Group Art Unit: 3723

Examiner: Hadi Shakeri

Customer No.: 36735

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 CFR 1.8
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 23 August 2005.

William B. Patterson — Typed Name
34,102 — Reg. No. if applicable
Signature
(713)623-4844 — Telephone Number

Dear Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Applicants, and the Attorney who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor and the information in his file, submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

While the information submitted in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement may be material pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is prior art for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other possibly material information as defined under 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

The patents and/or publications submitted herewith are set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449.

If the sum of $180.00 is due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) pursuant to § 1.97, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this fee, and any other fee necessary to make this submission timely, to the Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0485/WBP.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant

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PTO/SB/08a (07-05)
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/681,570
Filing Date	October 8, 2003
First Named Inventor	Bernd-Georg Pietras
Art Unit	3723
Examiner Name	Hadi Shakeri
Attorney Docket Number	WEAT/0485

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number - Kind Code[2] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-2,639,894	05-26-1953	Smith	
		US- 3,021,739	02-20-1962	Grundmann	
		US- 3,041,901	07-03-1962	Knights	
		US- 3,086,413	04-23-1963	Mason	
		US- 3,131,586	05-05-1964	Wilson	
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		US- 4,895,056	01-23-1990	Schulze-Beckinghausen	
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		US- 5,092,399	03-03-1992	Lang	
		US- 5,150,642	09-29-1992	Moody, et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3] - Number[4] - Kind Code[5] (*if known*)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
		GB 2 115 940	09-14-1983	Plaquin		
		WO 00/45027	08-03-2000	Schulze-Beckinghausen		
		GB 2 346 577	08-16-2000	Beckinghausen et al.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. [1] Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). [2] See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. [3] Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). [4] For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. [5] Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. [6] Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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		US-5,159,860	11-03-1992	Pietras	
		US- 5,161,438	11-10-1992	Pietras	
		US- 5,167,173	12-01-1992	Pietras	
		US- 5,172,613	12-22-1992	Wesch, Jr.	
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		US- 5,390,568	02-21-1995	Pietras	
		US- 5,730,471	03-24-1998	Schulze-Beckinghausen et al.	
		US- 5,842,390	12-01-1998	Bouligny et al.	
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		US- 6,206,096	03-27-2001	Belik	
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		US- RE 31,699	10-09-1984	Eckel	
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